

From: Steve Dockter
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 10:30am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sir or Madam,

I understand that I have the ability to comment on the proposed settlement between the Justice Department and Microsoft.

I have read about the proposed settlement, and I am NOT in favor of it in its current state. Please consider this a vote AGAINST the current settlement, as well as a vote to seek a settlement that is more favorable to Microsoft's competitors.

The proposed settlement does nothing to correct Microsoft's previous actions. There are no provisions that correct or redress their previous abuses. They only prohibit the future repetition of those abuses. This, in my opinion, goes against the very foundation of law. If a person or organization is able to commit illegal acts, benefit from those acts and then receive as a "punishment" instructions that they cannot commit those acts again, they have still benefited from their illegal acts. That is not justice, not for the victims of their abuses and not for the American people in general.

Even after being found guilty of being an illegal monopoly, Microsoft's behavior has not changed. Regulation of their behavior, with the threat of severe criminal penalties for failure to comply, is the only remedy that I can see will curtail them.

The proposed settlement does not sufficiently relieve Microsoft of the ability to leverage hardware and computer manufacturers unfairly against competing products, nor does it adequately open the Windows API to programmers. The DOJ and US government can put a stop to the Microsoft monopoly by forcing them to release their file formats, source code, protocols, or something similar that will allow other companies to compete with them. The market must be able to return to a state of competition.

Thank you for you time,

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